

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02

ACDA-19 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /191 W

----- 025717

R 241030Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8023

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJ: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE DELIVERED PERSONALLY ON MAY 23 TO U PYI SOE, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. QUOTE: PURSUANT TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF BURMA, AND TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. USAE 120/KU1/9-3/74,;

THE EMBASSY HAS

THE HONOR TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED FOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PURPOSES, AND HAS SUPPLIED THE EMBASSY WITH CERTAIN INFORMATION WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF BURMA BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE REGARDING THE SENDING OR RECEIVING OF A TECHNICAL TEAM.

TWO HELICOPTER TYPES APPEAR APPROPRIATE FOR THE PURPOSE ENVISAGED. THESE ARE THE UH-1H ("HUEY") AND THE HH-43 ("HUSKIE"). THE EMBASSY'S AIR ATTACHE WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ANY TECHNICAL

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DETAILS WHICH THE BURMESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES MAY REQUIRE.

THE TWO HELICOPTERS MAY BE BRIEFLY COMPARED AS FOLLOWS:

BOTH ARE TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF BEING UTILIZED AS TROOP-CARRYING HELICOPTERS OR OF BEING CONVERTED TO GUNSHIP CONFIGURATION. BOTH HAVE THE CAPACITY TO CARRY APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 14 TROOPS, DEPENDING ON HOW THE MEN ARE EQUIPPED; THE HUSKIE'S CARRYING CAPACITY IS SLIGHTLY THE GREATER OF THE TWO. THE MAXIMUM SPEED OF THE HUEY SLIGHTLY EXCEEDS THAT OF THE HUSKIE. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT HUSKIES ARE ALREADY IN THE INVENTORY OF THE BURMA AIR FORCE, AND FOR THIS REASON ASSUMES THAT MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT SIMPLER THAN IN THE CASE OF THE HUEY.

THE EMBASSY IS INFORMED THAT ANY HUEYS PROVIDED WOULD HAVE TO BE ORDERED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM THE MANUFACTURER. FACTORY PRODUCTION SCHEDULES ARE INFLEXIBLE, AND THE SUPPLY SITUATION IS TIGHT BECAUSE OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY SERVICES AND OTHER END-USERS. IT IS ESTIMATED, THEREFORE, THAT THE INITIAL DELIVERY OF HUEYS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MADE APPROXIMATELY 12 MONTHS AFTER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD PLACED THE ORDER. ANOTHER TWO OR THREE MONTHS WOULD NORMALLY BE REQUIRED FOR SHIPMENT TO BURMA. LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF SHIPPING SPACE TO BURMA COULD, OF COURSE, CAUSE FURTHER UNPREDICTABLE DELAYS IN DELIVERY TO BURMA. TWO TO THREE HELICOPTERS COULD BE DELIVERED INITIALLY AND TWO TO THREE PER MONTH THEREAFTER.

SURPLUS HUSKIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE US INVENTORY AND COULD BE RECONDITIONED AND DELIVERED MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY. THE EMBASSY IS INFORMED THAT WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER CONCLUSION OF A RECONDITIONING CONTRACT SIX RECONDITIONED HUSKIES COULD BE DELIVERED MORE OR LESS SIMULTANEOUSLY. AGAIN, LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF SHIPPING SPACE TO BURMA COULD CAUSE UNPREDICTABLE DELAYS IN DELIVERY TO BURMA.

THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF BURMA CONCERNING THE TYPE OR TYPES OF HELICOPTER TO BE SUPPLIED TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS WHICH IT MAY HAVE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS ITS DESIRE TO MEET SPECIFIC BURMESE NEEDS AT THE EARLIEST TIME CONSISTENT WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF PRODUCTION OR RECONDITIONING FACILITIES AND WITH EXISTING COMMITMENTS TO OTHER USERS. UNQUOTE.

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3. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.
OSBORN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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